

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF ROBERT ALLEN KLICHER

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert "Bob" Allen Klicker, the third-generation owner of Klicker's Strawberry Acres in Walla Walla, Washington. Bob was the definition of a hardworking American, passionate family man, and inspiring leader in his community. He lived an extraordinary 95 years, and every day, he proved his passion and love for those around him. A rancher, farmer, innovator, and entrepreneur, Bob leaves behind him a legacy that will never be forgotten.

Bob's passion for helping others began as he grew up working on the family homestead with his 5 siblings. He was inducted into his high school's Blue Devil Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in baseball, football, and track. After graduating high school in 1944, Bob served our country overseas in Guam as a servicemember in the U.S. Navy. Upon returning home, Bob met and married the love of his life, Nancy, with whom he went on to raise a family with for 67 years.

Bob loved hunting, horseback riding, hiking, and working in the Blue Mountains. Ever the trailblazer, Bob was known for trying new ideas in farming and expanding his family's business venture. He truly believed that growing the Klicker Strawberry enterprise would impact the Walla Walla community, and he was right. Over the years, Bob gave countless kids the opportunity to work on the strawberry farm and learn valuable skills that will last them a lifetime. Despite Bob's passing, these lessons continue to this very day, as the fourth generation of Klickers is keeping up with the tradition of providing work opportunities for local high school students. Bob's legacy will live on as his son, Kirk, and his daughter-in-law, Nancy, continue the family business.

Bob joined his family and his Savior Jesus in Heaven on September 9, 2022. He was a trusted friend and advisor to me throughout the years, and I will miss him dearly. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the wonderful life of Bob Klicker.

### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF RALPH J. NEVALA

#### HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Ralph J. Nevala, 83, of California, Pennsylvania, who was called home to his eternal reward by his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Born on February 28, 1939, the son of the late Weikko and Esther Oberg Nevala, Ralph spent his childhood on the Nevala Dairy Farm and was part of the California High School class of 1957.

Ralph met Marion Ferrer while delivering milk from Nevala Dairy Farm to her neighborhood in Monessen. They were married on August 23, 1958, raised two sons on the family farm, and celebrated almost fifty-nine years of marriage together.

In 1968, Ralph graduated from the Pennsylvania State Police Academy and honorably served the Commonwealth for nineteen years as a Trooper with the Vice Unit of the Bureau of Criminal Intelligence. During his distinguished career, Ralph was responsible for the arrests of perpetrators of the "Triple Six Fix," the 1980 Pennsylvania Lottery scandal. His undercover work paved the way for justice on the high-profile case. Ralph's years of service in criminal intelligence also led to the crack-down on prostitution rings from Erie to Pittsburgh.

Following his service with the Pennsylvania State Police, Ralph converted Nevala Dairy Farm into a beef cattle operation that specialized in breeding Hereford bulls and Angus cows. He worked on the farm until his retirement in 2017. Ralph was also a longtime member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. This work led to lobbying lawmakers in both Harrisburg and Washington, underscoring the importance he placed in continued service to the farming community.

Ralph was an avid deer hunter and member of the Charleoi Sportsman Club. He also served the public as a State Deputy Game Warden. During the summers, Ralph enjoyed spending time with his grandsons on the farm and traveling to Washington, D.C., and the Carolinas.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents and his loving wife, Marion Nevala.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the life and legacy of Ralph J. Nevala. May we aspire to live by his example of public service and devotion to family and community.

### CELEBRATING CLAY PHILLIPS' LIFETIME OF PUBLIC SERVICE

#### HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime Chief of Staff Clay Phillips who is retiring at the end of this Congress. I thank him for his tremendous career of public service, including 16 years of service in the chief of staff role. There are few people in the Tampa area who have not worked with Clay. And I'm grateful for all the work that he has done to ensure that veterans receive the benefits that they have earned, to ensure that our neighbors were able to stay in their homes during the foreclosure crisis, and

all of his work on affordable health care and for social justice. He has always stood up for the voiceless, and as President Kennedy encouraged: "Let public service be a proud and lively career." Clay's career was both proud and lively.

A proud son of Florida, Clay attended Rollins College on a baseball scholarship before heading to University of Florida's College of Law where he earned his law degree.

From working on his first presidential campaign in 1975 to serving former Congressman Jim Davis in Tallahassee and Tampa, Clay has dedicated his life to paving a more prosperous country and community. He has played a key role in many of my greatest accomplishments while serving as Tampa Bay's voice in the Congress. It was a proud day for all Floridians and Americans when we unveiled the Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune statue in the United States Capitol earlier this year—since the idea came about, Clay worked diligently with local and federal partners to ensure that one day all visitors to our nation's capital would learn about the historic excellence of Dr. Bethune. Clay's tireless efforts have supported the community he loves when it was most in need, including setting up foreclosure workshops that counseled local families on their financial problems during the recession and securing grants that have allowed Tampa to grow into the vibrant city it is today. Clay has been a constant presence in both Tampa and Washington, and he's known by all those he works with as a compassionate, quick-thinking team player. In lockstep with the priorities of our community, Clay has helped maintain the strong fabric of our community by supporting the working and middle-class workers who built Tampa into the bustling city it is today. A fierce friend and advocate for our brothers and sisters in labor, Clay worked on issues to boost pay and provide workplace protections for working Floridians.

I am grateful for Clay's career of service and the time that he's spent on my staff. He is a faithful friend and an unmatched public servant who will no doubt continue to serve as he begins the next chapter of his life. I would like to particularly thank his wife, Andrea, and daughter, Latham, for their patience and support of Clay and his work throughout the years.

Always ready with a JFK quote, timely pun or relevant Civil War fact—Clay created an environment for our staff to grow and serve. Known fondly for his "Clayisms", one our team knows well is that Mark Twain once said, "I didn't have time to write you a short letter, so I wrote you a long one." There is certainly no way to encapsulate the storied service of Clay Phillips in a concise blurb, so I am grateful that his legacy will continue through the policies that he helped craft and the lives that he touched.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to share with my colleagues a small slice of the incredible career of Clay Phillips. Our community and our country are forever better for his work.

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